

Schools as their Director for Advocacy and Policy where he played an instrumental role in the launch of Stamford Charier School for Excellence. His passion for equality in education also led Q to co-found and serve as the co-director of EquityCT, a nonprofit dedicated to creating learning opportunities, building actionable understanding of equity, and dismantling systemic inequity through action and civic engagement.

In addition to his professional and political work, Q was also deeply involved in the community itself. He sat on the Board of Directors for numerous community organizations, like the Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theater, the Middletown Substance Abuse Action Council, the Middlesex United Way, and the Middletown Racial Justice Coalition to name just a few. He also volunteered his time and energies to local charitable efforts like the Community Foundation of Middlesex County Live Local Give Local 365 Fund, the Middlesex Chamber of Congress Young Professional Alliance, and the Columbus House Chocolate to the Rescue event. He was an active member of the Cross Street AME Zion Church and, most recently, Q proudly crossed the line, becoming a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.—Beta Sigma Lambda Chapter.

Former First Lady Michele Obama once said, “People who are truly strong lift others up. People who are truly powerful bring others together.” By those definitions, Q Williams was one of the strongest, most powerful people I have ever had the honor to know. Whether it was a student, local business owner, constituent, family member, friend, or new acquaintance, he sought to open doors of opportunity, to help in any way he could. He would always ask, “how can I help you?” He saw the potential in everyone and in everything, developing networks and connections that enabled him to connect the right people with each other so that potential could be realized. With every smile, every laugh, every action, and every word, he raised others up and brought people together. It was extraordinary to witness.

Q had the widest smile and the most gregarious laugh for which he will always be remembered. Though still so young, he touched countless lives and hearts through his commitment and love for his community. As someone recently so eloquently put, the Honorable Quentin “Q” Soldier Williams will forever be Middletown’s favorite son. As we continue to grieve his loss, I extend my deepest condolences and heart-felt sympathies to his wife, Carrissa, and his mother, Queen. There are no words to ease their sorrow, but I hope they find some comfort in knowing just how deeply he will be missed and how greatly all those fortunate enough to have known him will strive to honor his memory.

HONORING WILL MITCHELL’S
SERVICE AS LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 2023

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Will Mitchell for 4 years and 2 Congresses as my Legislative Director.

Will has been a dedicated public servant and legislative staffer to the state of Minnesota for a decade now, previously serving for Congressman Rick Nolan for Will’s own hometown district and Duluth, Minnesota.

His expertise on energy and environmental policy helped us enact the Local Water Protection Act during the 117th Congress. He has been instrumental in forming my office as a first-term Member to now a returning Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Not only that, Will has been a jack of all trades, working in areas of Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, Tax, Financial Services and so many different policies.

I am grateful for Will’s tireless advocacy for local communities in my district, spearheading our offices efforts to secure over \$40 million in funding for Community Projects. He helped navigate my legislative portfolio through the pandemic, but also constantly stay on top of the issues impacting working families in Minnesota’s Second District.

It has also been a joy watching Will and Sacha’s family grow—with 2 young boys, Cal and Charlie, joining us all during his time in my office.

I’ve appreciated Will’s advice and counsel over the years and wish him the best in his new adventure off the Hill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AYANNA PRESSLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 2023

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to physically record my vote on Ocasio-Cortez No. 73 amendment to H.R. 21. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 69.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTER FOR TRANSFORMING LIVES

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 2023

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Center for Transforming Lives.

Whereas in 1907, the Center for Transforming Lives, (formerly the YWCA of Tarrant County) was founded by Fort Worth women as the first YWCA to serve local low-income women. Early services included housing, employment support and social activities.

Whereas in the 1920s, the Center for Transforming Lives founded the local United Way, as well as the local chapters of USO and Red Cross.

Whereas in the 1950s, the Center for Transforming Lives expanded services throughout Fort Worth, as well as Arlington and Parker County.

Whereas in 2013, the Center for Transforming Lives underwent a strategic plan that indicated that further expansion was needed to disrupt the cycle of poverty for women and children. As such, an increase was made in families serviced by homeless services, early childhood education and economic mobility services were added.

Whereas in 2017, the Center for Transforming Lives became a safety net for more than 3,000 women and children in Tarrant County annually.

Whereas in the early 2020s, the Center for Transforming Lives doubled the number of children served annually.

Whereas in 2022, the Center for Transforming Lives is celebrating its 115th anniversary.

Therefore, be it resolved, that we recognize the important work of the Center for Transforming Lives in disrupting the cycle of poverty and moving women and children to a place of prosperity.

HONORING THE 33RD ANNUAL
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
YOUTH ORATORICAL CONTEST

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 38th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration and the cornerstone of the event, the 33rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest, hosted by the Prince William Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Each year, the members of the Prince William County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated invite community members to gather on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to celebrate and reflect upon his life and his legacy. The pinnacle of this event has become the Youth Oratorical Contest, which brings together students in grades 6 through 12 for a public speaking competition to honor and sustain Dr. King’s spirit of optimism, public service, racial harmony, and human rights through the voices of youth.

Dr. King had a vision for what our United States of America should be and worked tirelessly towards making it a reality. Our country still faces obstacles that Dr. King fought to remove, and we must commit ourselves to realizing his vision: “the creation of the Beloved Community.”

Dr. King’s words continue to inspire our youth, who carry on his legacy and prepare to become the future leaders of our country. Participants in the MLK Youth Oratorical Contest pay tribute to Dr. King with their ability to communicate with passion and clarity, just as he did. This year, the competition challenged students to deliver speeches addressing the theme, “A View of the Promised Land”—inspired by Dr. King’s “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” speech that he delivered on April 3, 1968—the night before he was assassinated.

Six Virginia students presented their reflections on Dr. King’s legacy, and they eloquently demonstrated how his words empower them.

I congratulate the following finalists and commend them for their participation in the 33rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest:

Sakshi Gowda—Reagan Middle School
Kiomi Ninasau—Gainesville Middle School

Alyssa M. Godfrey—Benton Middle School
Brooklynn Saunders—Gar-Field High School
Myles Lanier—Manassas Park High School
Shavonne Davis—Patriot High School